

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace paragraph number 0006, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0006] Another preferred aspect of the present invention provides a method of operating a solid oxide regenerative fuel cell, ~~comprising operating the solid oxide regenerative fuel cell~~ in a fuel cell mode by providing a fuel to ~~[[a]]~~ the negative electrode and providing an oxidizer to ~~[[a]]~~ the positive electrode to generate electricity and water vapor at the negative electrode. The method further comprises operating the solid oxide regenerative fuel cell in an electrolysis mode by providing electricity to the fuel cell and providing water vapor to the negative electrode to generate fuel at the negative electrode and oxygen at the positive electrode. The method further comprises providing a sufficient reducing atmosphere to the negative electrode when the solid oxide regenerative fuel cell operates in the electrolysis mode to prevent the negative electrode from oxidizing. The negative electrode comprises less than 1 mg/cm<sup>2</sup> of noble metal.